

THOUSANDS DEAD AT SAN FRANCISCO; MILLIONS GONE IN FIRES STILL RAGING

CITY WAS TOSSED LIKE A FEATHER AS SHOCK CAME

Great Buildings Rose Into the Air, Then Collapsed.

EARTH SEEMED TO SINK

Walls Rocked and Wobbled Like Frail Things in a Storm.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 18.—Amid a heap of bricks and mortar which heap up about the telegraph, this story of the awful calamity that has befallen San Francisco, a calamity that in seriousness and magnitude makes the recent eruption of Vesuvius appear trivial, is being sent.

It was exactly at 5:15 o'clock this morning that the city was tossed about like a feather by the wind. The earth seemed to sink for a moment and then the buildings to rise in the air like a balloon. Then there was a sort of sinking, the like of which no mortal ever experienced a second time. Then the buildings of the town rocked and wobbled like a frail thing in a storm.

No mortal can ever experience the peculiar sensation that accompanied this upheaval twice, for no city can twice withstand such a shock. Three minutes after the awful earthquake the town was a mass of torn streets and the city filled with automobiles and hacks. Immediately a force of volunteer rescuers appeared and the work of gathering the dead and injured began without delay.

The shock of the trembling earth was followed by a multitude of fires, which swept the water front and the southern portion of the city, destroying within an hour over \$20,000,000 worth of tenement and business property.

The catastrophe came like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky. Tuesday was an ideal Western day, made up of bracing breezes and a soothing sunset. The night came on like a quiet sleep. Hundreds of hacks and automobiles wheeled and whirled to the opera to hear Fremstad and Caruso in "Carmen," as the day died away and the night stole on.

The Grand Opera House was thronged with music loving people. Then came the end of the show and the after supper. Later diners had scarcely reached their homes when the entire peninsula was rocked like a reed in the wind.

At first the bystanders thought the trembling of the earth was an ordinary quiver. Then the cornices of the main buildings began to drop into Market street. The rattling of the brick and the shrieks of the wounded mingled in a sound of horror.

The Postal Telegraph Building is still rocking like ocean waves, in consequence of a second shock, a little more than three hours after the first shock. Word has just been received of the death of Fire Chief Sullivan and Policeman Fenner. They died like heroes fighting the fire.

Already the ghoulies are in action, and in consequence a regiment of soldiers has been detailed from the Presidio to the business district. Martial law will, in all probability, prevail as a result of the advent of the ghoulies.

The public library, donated to the city by former Mayor James D. Phelan, is a mass of disordered bricks, and the picturesque tower of the new city hall is a mere skeleton of rusted steel.

Emergency Hospitals Opened.

At the morgue twenty-five bodies have been received, and the authorities have pressed the Mechanics pavilion and the basement of the Hall of Justice into service as an emergency hospital.

The magnificent office of the Postal Telegraph Company, on Market street, opposite Second, is a mass of broken telegraph instruments and heaps of bricks and plaster. Hysterical women and frenzied men are rushing about offering to do anything in their power to get the news of San Francisco's fate to the world. Word has just been received of the burning of the Winchester House, on Third street, between Mission and Market, and of the magnificent Aronson building, on the corner of Mission and Third streets.

The sight of the thousands of poor who have been rendered homeless by the combined efforts of the tossing earth and flames is pathetic in the extreme. Women are seen by the hundreds heaped up on piles of blankets appealing to the firemen to save the remaining sticks of their furniture. Mothers with babes in their arms rush about frantically for their husbands. The shrieking of these women and the crackling of the flames produce a sound that is simply appalling.

Word has just come in that Police Sergeant Bunker was crushed in the collapse of a fire house.

Numerous fires are reported from the Potrero district. This is the section of the city that surrounds the Union Iron Works, where the great battleship Oregon was built. Throughout the entire southern portion of the city buildings are momentarily reported to have collapsed. This section of the city is made up of small tenements.

The Grand Opera House, where the Metropolitan Opera company was playing, is now in flames, and the adjoining buildings, which are occupied by manufacturing concerns, are rapidly giving way to the flames.



Panoramic View of San Francisco, Taken From Roof of St. Francis Hotel.

WASHINGTON FELT SERIOUS SHOCKS FOR FOUR HOURS

Most Severe Earthquake Recorded Here in Many Years.

For nearly four hours this forenoon Washington felt the tremble of an earthquake, the most severe that has been recorded here in years, if ever before, on the delicate instruments of the Weather Bureau. While registered as severe on the seismograph, the rocking was not perceptible to persons on the street or in buildings.

When the first reports of the earthquake in San Francisco were received in Washington the officials of the Weather Bureau at once began an inspection of the seismograph. Prof. Marvin, in charge of the instrument division, said it showed the quaking of the earth since before 8 o'clock.

Needle Dislodged.

Shortly after that hour the shock was so severe that the needle was thrown entirely off the sheet on which the record is made. The unusual tremblings continued for half an hour and gradually became less and less. By 11 o'clock the deviations of the needle were becoming rare.

Owing to the fact that the seismograph had just been relocated, the vibration of the earth in a north and south direction was not recorded, the record showing only that in an east and west direction.

Cause Far Away.

The duration of the quaking led Dr. Martin to conclude that the origin of the earthquake was several thousands of miles away, and, although he was unable to examine the record while it was being recorded, was inclined to believe that the origin was far beyond San Francisco.

The record which was then being made, resembled very much the earthquake that occurred in January, 1905, felt here, but originating in South America.

He is inclined to believe that the present shocks have no connection with the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Earthquakes, he said, are likely to attend the volcanic eruption in the immediate vicinity of the volcano, but not at such distances as this.

Continued Till Noon.

At noon today the seismograph at the Weather Bureau still indicated that the disturbance continued here. It was said, however, that the movement had been dying out ever since the strongest shock was felt at 8 o'clock this morning.

It is estimated that the movement of the earth has been from three-eighths to one-half inch, and the shock could have been felt in the top stories of some of the tall buildings. The fact that the shock was not generally felt was owing to the movement being backward and forward instead of in one direction.

COL. CLARENCE EDWARDS SLOWLY REGAINS HEALTH

Word has reached the War Department from Col. Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, who is at the army hospital camp at Fort Bayard, N. M., with tuberculosis of the throat, that he is gradually improving.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Temperatures have risen in the Ohio valley, the lower lake region, and the middle Atlantic States, and have fallen at the extreme northwest beyond the Dakotas.

The weather will remain fair in the East and South tonight and Thursday with little change in temperature.

TEMPERATURE.

9 a. m. 61

12 noon 69

1 p. m. 71

THE SUN.

Sun sets today 6:39

Sun rises tomorrow 5:30

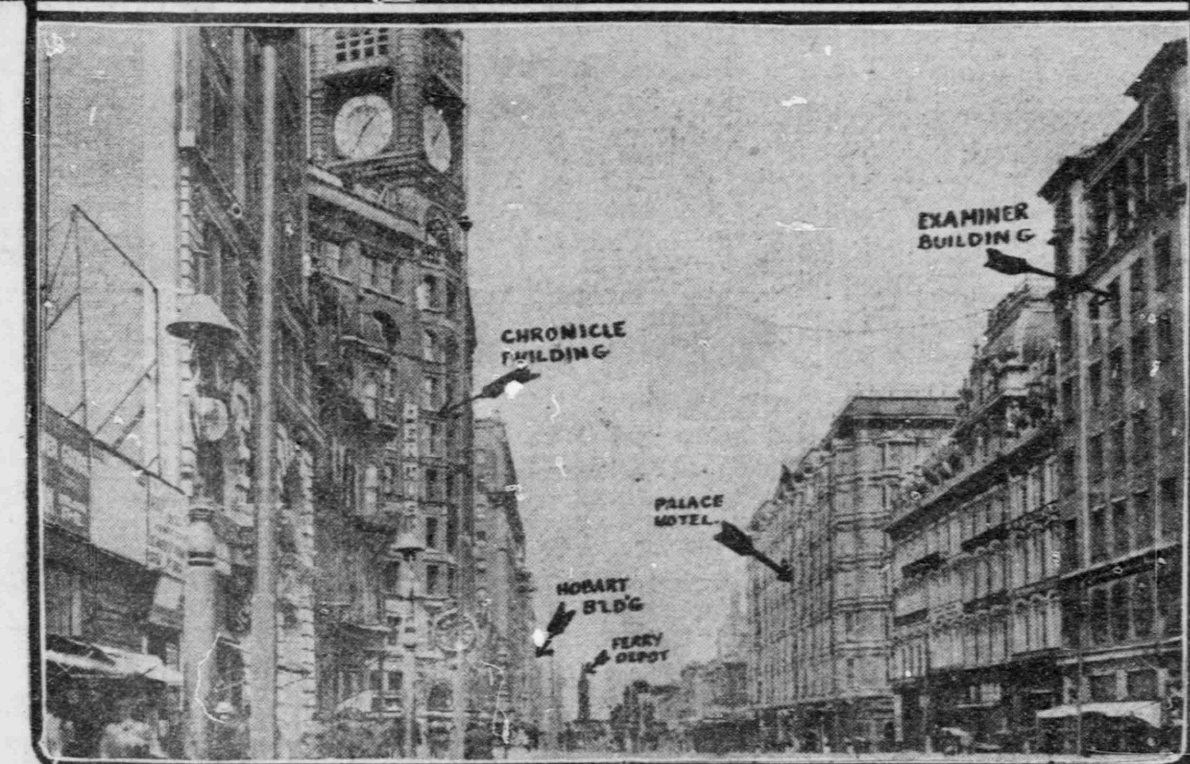
TIDE TABLE.

High tide today 4:42 p. m.

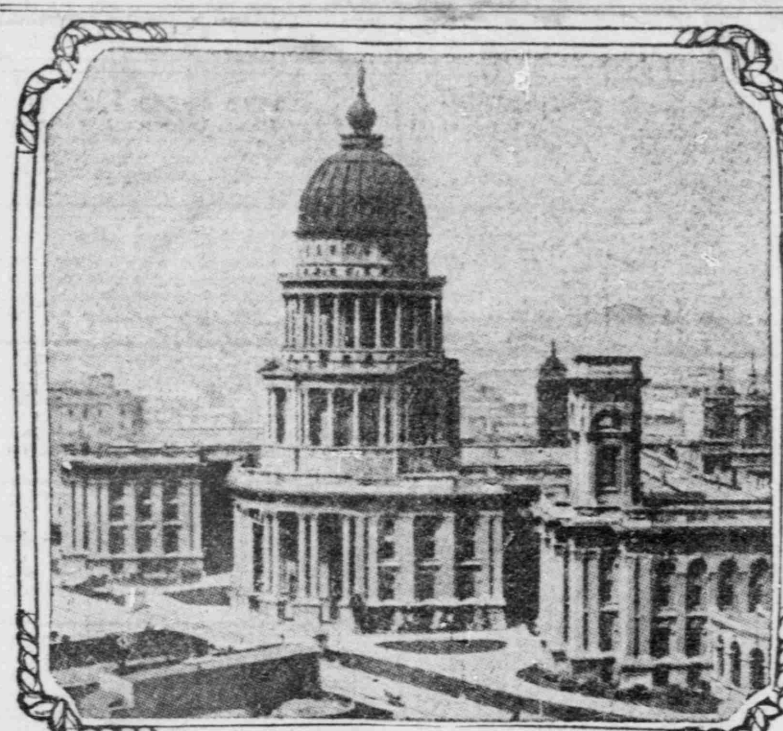
Low tide today 10:41 p. m.

Low tide tomorrow 5:00 a. m.

Low tide tomorrow 11:39 a. m.



Looking Down Market Street, at the Corner of Kearny and Third Streets. The Chronicle and Hobart Buildings Were Wrecked, and the Palace Hotel Is Threatened With Destruction by Fire.



San Francisco City Hall Among the Wrecked Buildings.

Blackburn's Counsel Scores a Big Point

Important Witness Testifies That Congressman Represented Him in Case, But Refused to Accept the Fee Offered.

GREENSBORO, N. C., April 18.—The second day of the trial of E. Spencer Blackburn, representative of the Eighth North Carolina Congressional District, who is charged with having violated section 1782 of the Revised Statutes by practicing before the departments at Washington, was begun at 9:30 this morning, before United States Circuit Judge Nathan Goff.

Immediately after the case was called, former Judge W. P. Bynum, of counsel for the defense, filed an exception to the ruling of the court on the demurrer argued throughout yesterday, which contended that the alleged offenses charged against Blackburn were committed before he had been sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives.

MERCER AND GASKINS GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER

John Richard Mercer and James Henry Gaskins, who were tried in Criminal Court, No. 2, for murder in the second degree, were today found guilty of manslaughter. Each of the defendants was sentenced by Justice Gould, the trial judge, to imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period of fifteen years. The penalty imposed is the limit for the crime.

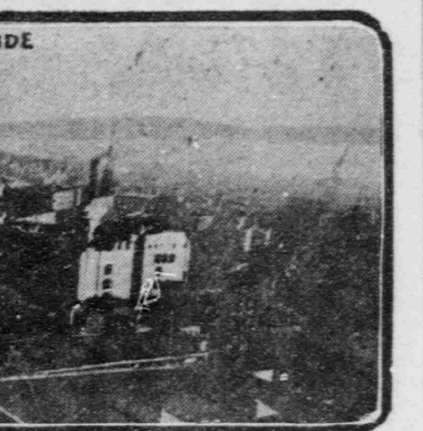
BROTHER AND SISTER PROTEST AGAINST WILL

James Murphy, a brother, and Catherine Maloney, sister of David Murphy, have filed a protest against his will being admitted to probate on the ground that it was executed under stress of undue influence. Chapin Brown and Charles H. Bauman are counsel for the executors.

FAVORABLE REPORT ON FOWLER BANKING BILL

The House Committee on Banking and Currency today authorized a favorable report on the Fowler bill, "for the current deposit of public moneys."

All About Hell at the Belasco Theater, April 22, 3 p. m. Don't you want to know?—Adv.



The Section to the Extreme Right Is the Part of the City That Was Most Extensively Wrecked.

WIDE DEVASTATION AND LOSS OF LIFE CORROBORATED

War Department's Wire Estimates 1,000 Lives Sacrificed.

The War Department established communication with San Francisco, after strenuous efforts, about 11 o'clock this morning.

Chief Operator Pearson, at the telegraph office of the War Department, got direct connection through with San Francisco over the Postal Telegraph wires, but the connection lasted scarcely two minutes.

In this brief interval of time the operator at San Francisco stated that it was estimated that fully 1,000 lives were lost.

A little later the wire began to work again, but the service was slow, and information came separated by long pauses.

Old Buildings Gone. This time Chief Operator Pearson was informed that the buildings of modern construction withstood the shock fairly well, only a few of them being destroyed or badly damaged. Great havoc was wrought among the older buildings.

The Cliff House, the world famous resort hotel, and one of the oldest buildings in San Francisco, was reported as destroyed, nearly all the guests escaping uninjured.

The Navy Department, through the Bureau of Equipment, is straining every means to get in communication with the scene of disaster by its wireless telegraph system. Messages have been flashed to the wireless telegraph station at Goat Island, on San Francisco Bay, with the station at the Mare Island navy yard, which is about fifteen miles from the city proper across the bay, and also with the station at Point Harford, on the coast about half way between San Francisco and Santa Barbara.

Inasmuch as these attempts have been under way since 9 o'clock, and no replies received up to 11 o'clock, Rear Admiral Cowles, chief of the bureau, expressed the opinion that the shock might have affected the wireless apparatus.

The fact that communication has not been established with any of the naval city either up or down the coast gives rise to the belief among navy officials that a wide strip of territory on the Pacific Coast may have been visited by the shock.

DEMOCRATS CONFER ON THE RATE BILL

Senators Likely to Accept Bailey's Proposal.

Twenty-five Democrats attended the conference on railway rate regulation, which convened at 11 o'clock today. The various court review amendments to the pending rate bill were taken up, and it is expected the conference will remain in session all afternoon.

It is understood that the conferees at the meeting today were practically agreed in most all of the provisions of the measure.

Senator Bailey's non-suspension amendment, it is said, will prevail when a final conclusion is reached. At present he has with him a majority of the members of the minority side of the Senate, who are willing to accept his restrictions of the powers of Federal courts, but who do not agree with him entirely on his limited court review proposition. It was indicated by some of the members of the conference that the Bailey amendment, in a somewhat modified form, together with the limited court review, as suggested by the President. The court review amendment, if adopted by the Democrats, would give the Dooliver-Clapp combination a majority of the votes in the Senate. It is expected that the result of the conference will permit a vote on the bill in the near future.

WHOLE BLOCKS FALL; STREETS LITTERED, PANIC PREVAILS

Dead and Dying Lying in All Directions.

FIRES RAGE, WATER FAILS

Greatest Damage Reported in Business Section Around Market Street.

Shocks began at 5:13 A. M.

Greatest damage in business section. Over 1,000 lives reported lost.

Great fires raging everywhere.

City water mains broken, water gone.

City Hall and hospital wrecked.

Palace Hotel among buildings still standing threatened by fire.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—San Francisco was visited by a violent earthquake at 5:13 this morning. Scores of business blocks and residences were destroyed. Many persons were killed.

Fires have broken out all over the city and people are terror stricken. Sad scenes are being enacted all over the city. Men and women, shaken from their beds, ran here and there, pleading to be taken to missing friends.

Over Ten Blocks Burned. Over ten square blocks of dwellings and business property have been destroyed by fire.

The editorial rooms of the Call have given way to the flames and the Examiner building looks as though it will soon be destroyed. The offices of the leased wires of the Hearst papers have been destroyed.

Every street in the city is littered with bricks, stone, and iron framework of fallen structures.

City Hall and Majestic Theater are in ruins.

The towers of the City Hall were destroyed and the wing containing the Emergency Hospital collapsed.

Express men are hauling dying men and women through the city streets in their wagons, vainly seeking medical aid. Every trolley wire in the city is down and the cable and electric traffic stopped.

Buildings along upper Market street and western addition seems to have sustained full force of the shock. All big hotels and high buildings of the newer portion of the city still stand.

City Under Cloud of Smoke. Fires are increasing in number and the city is under a cloud of dense smoke. It is reported that the water supply has failed. If this is true a great conflagration is imminent.

The city is at the mercy of the flames. Hundreds of great fires are raging now. The firemen are practically helpless. They began to use dynamite on the burning buildings to check the flames. The city is in dire danger of destruction.

Terrible fires are raging throughout the city. Two blocks on Market street next to Ferry Depot have been consumed, and the fire is still burning fiercely. Deafening roars of dynamite exploded by the firemen are constantly heard, but the flames are unchecked.

Morgue Filled With Dead. The city morgue and adjacent buildings are now filled with dead. Every hospital in the city is glutted with wounded.

Tourists, terrified, are leaving all hotels and rushing for outgoing trains. Their baggage litter the sidewalks. No